

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 060133
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 IGA-02 AID-05 /051 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND/E - MR. ALLITTO:LEE
APPROVED BY ARA - WHLUERS
D - BLPASCOE
ARA/AND - FJD
ARA/RPP - JKING
DOD/ISA - CAPTAIN MAY
PM/SAS - RTITUS
S/S: RPERITO

-----180153Z 098553 /20

O R 180132Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
USCINCSO
SECDEF
JCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MASS, OVIP, EC

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN MISSION TO WASHINGTON

REFS: (A) QUITO 1731; (B) QUITO 1408; (C) QUITO 1458;
(D) STATE 45987; (E) QUITO 1710

1. REFTEL A STATES THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR (GOE)
MISSION "WILL FEEL COMPELLED TO RAISE AT LEAST TWO SPECIFIC
ISSUES" IN THE AREA OF ITS DEFENSE NEEDS.

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2. THE ADMINISTRATION IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING POLICY ON
ARMS TRANSFERS. NOT EVEN THE GENERAL GUIDELINES OF THAT
POLICY HAVE BEEN APPROVED YET, LET ALONE REGIONAL GUIDELINES
OR SPECIFIC ISSUES SUCH AS WHAT WE CAN SELL TO ECUADOR.
ACCORDINGLY, THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT HAVE ANSWERS THIS
MONTH TO SUCH SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED
THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE ECUADOREANS WERE NOT SEEKING SPE-

CIFIC ANSWERS, BUT WANTED "TO TEST THE WATER IN WASHINGTON" TO SEE IF A RECEPTIVE CLIMATE WAS PREVALENT (REFTEL B). BECAUSE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S ASSURANCE, DEFENSE WENT ALONG WITH HIS PROPOSAL TO RECEIVE THIS MISSION.

3. NO REPEAT NO ANSWERS CAN BE PROVIDED NEXT WEEK TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTTEL A. THEREFORE, WE ARE NOT IN A

POSITION TO ENTER INTO A DISCUSSION WITH THE ECUADOREANS THAT WILL BECOME THAT SPECIFIC. IF SUCH QUESTIONS ARE RAISED, OUR ANSWER HAS TO BE "WE ARE STUDYING THE SITUATION CAREFULLY, AND WILL TRY TO BE RESPONSIVE WITHIN WHATEVER LIMITATIONS ARE DETERMINED FOR FUTURE USG POLICY AND RESOURCES."

4. WE LEAVE TO YOU THE TASK OF INJECTING MORE REALITY INTO ECUADOREAN THINKING. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE ECUADOREAN MISSION MAY BE COMING HERE WITH UNREALISTIC VIEWS OF WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED. AS REFTTEL B STATES, THE REASON THE MINISTERIAL-LEVEL MISSION WAS CANCELLED WAS TO AVOID A FEELING OF DISILLUSIONMENT AMONG THE ECUADOREAN PUBLIC WHEN THE MISSION RETURNED HOME EMPTYHANDED. THIS LOWER-LEVEL AYALA MISSION IS A SUBSTITUTE, BUT WILL ALSO RETURN HOME EMPTYHANDED. FOR EXAMPLE, THE DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED THAT IT CANNOT EVEN ANNOUNCE THE \$5 MILLION INCREASE IN THE 1977 FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDIT ALLOCATION TO ECUADOR. SINCE THE ECUADOREAN PUBLIC PRESUMABLY DOES NOT YET KNOW ABOUT THAT INCREASE, AN ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD HELP THE GOE AND THE MISSION WHEN THE LATTER RETURNS HOME. THUS, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE ECUADOREAN MISSION MIGHT WANT TO MAKE SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT ONCE BACK IN QUITO. WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION.

5. WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE A SITUATION WHERE HOPES ARE RAISED SO HIGH IN ECUADOR THAT THIS VISIT WILL ONLY BRING DISILLUSIONMENT AND A WORSENING OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE HOPE YOU ARE SUCCESSFUL IN CORRECTING ANY ECUADOREAN NOTIONS OF OBTAINING ANYTHING MORE THAN A SYMPATHETIC HEARING IN WASHINGTON. CHRISTOPHER

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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